

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056703

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:ASEC, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT:PROTECTION OF SOVIET AND POLISH DIPLOMATS

1. THERE FOLLOWS FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION
CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S PRESS
BRIEFING ON "IF ASKED" BASIS. ISSUE DID NOT RPT NOT COME
UP IN MARCH 8 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.

2. QUOTE--Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS PROVIDING SPECIAL AGENTS FOR THE PERSONAL PROTECTION
OF SOME SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK WHO WERE IDENTIFIED
IN THE NEW YORK TABLOID SOHO NEWS AS KGB AGENTS?

3. A. YES, DEPARTMENT OF STATE SECURITY OFFICERS ARE
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PROVIDING PERSONAL PROTECTION TO FIVE SOVIET DIPLOMATS

IN NEW YORK AT THIS TIME. THE NEW YORK POLICE ARE ALSO PROVIDING SPECIAL ATTENTION COVERAGE FROM THEIR PATROLS. WE ARE DOING SO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT PRESS REPORTS

THAT THE INDIVIDUALS ARE INTELLIGENCE AGENTS COULD PROMPT IRRESPONSIBLE AND VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST THEM. WE HAVE NO SPECIAL INFORMATION THAT SUCH ACTS ARE IMMINENT, BUT IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, WE ARE TAKING SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS.

4. Q. SOME POLES WERE ALSO IDENTIFIED AS INTELLIGENCE AGENTS. IS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROVIDING THEM SPECIAL PROTECTION?

5. A. WE HAVE OFFERED SIMILAR PROTECTION TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AND THE NYPD IS PROVIDING SPECIAL ATTENTION COVERAGE FROM THEIR PATROLS.

6. Q. ISN'T THIS DEPARTMENT OF STATE PERSONAL PROTECTION SOMETHING NEW? SOVIET DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE PAST AS KGB AGENTS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS NOT REACTED BY PROVIDING SPECIAL PROTECTION.

7. A. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY OFFERED SUCH PROTECTION BUT WE BELIEVE THE CLIMATE IN SUCH SITUATIONS HAS CHANGED. IT IS NOW VERY MUCH IN VOGUE IN MANY COUNTRIES TO PUBLISH THE IDENTITIES OF ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AMONG DIPLOMATIC STAFFS, AND PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT THEIR PLACES OF RESIDENCE. AS WE KNOW, THIS CAN LEAD TO TRAGEDY. WE HAVE INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE SAFETY OF ACCREDITED DIPLOMATS IN THE UNITED STATES, AS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS DO FOR OUR PEOPLE ABROAD.

8. Q. ARE THE SOVIETS NAMED IN THE PRESS ARTICLES IN FACT KGB AGENTS?

9. A. I CANNOT COMMENT ON THAT. IF A FOREIGN NATIONAL VIOLATES HIS STATUS OR ENGAGES IN ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITY WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE US GOVERNMENT TAKES APPROPRIATE ACTION.

10. Q. EIGHT UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WERE NAMED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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KGB AGENTS IN MARCH 5 TV BROADCASTS IN NEW YORK. ARE YOU GOING TO PROVIDE THEM THE SAME SPECIAL PROTECTION?

11. A. I DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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